

60,137-167; 009-3018-U

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Colligan
Serial Number: 10/662,935
Filed: 9/15/2003
Examiner: Prunner, Kathleen J.
Group Art Unit: 3751
Title: "Non-Rotatable Joints for Shower Head"

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M/S AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed March 30, 2006, appellant makes the following concise reply.

Arguments With Regard to the Base Combination of Thulin and Warren

The examiner argues, with no support, that the references are analogous in that they both relate to pivot joints.

However, the references are for extremely different applications. Thulin is a shower, while Warren relates to a beer tap. Thulin relates to a structure that is cantilevered from a wall in space, whereas Warren is fixed within a beer keg.

There is nothing that suggests combining these references. Moreover, other than appellant's disclosure, in no place within this record is there a benefit to anything shown in Warren with regard to an integral bolt. Simply, this rejection is based on hindsight. Appellant has solved a real world

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problem in the field of showers, and an unmentioned illustration from an 1896 patent does not support the obviousness rejection the examiner wishes to make.

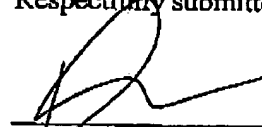
Arguments With Regard to the Combination of Thulin, Warren and Smith

Again, the examiner proposes no suggestion to modify the references. The only alleged benefit is one that cannot be found the references. Again, this combination is based solely on hindsight.

CLOSING

For the reasons set forth above, and for the reasons in the main brief, appellant asks that all rejections be reversed. Such action is solicited.


Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: May 5, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on May 5, 2006.


Laura Combs